

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01696 161134Z
ACTION H-03

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-----161420Z 109708 /40

R 161055Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6569
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
-AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 7080
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BISSAU UNN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (CODEL DIGGS, SOLARZ, AND WHALEN)
SUBJ: DIGGS, SOLARZ, AND WHALEN VISIT TO NIAMEY

1. CODEL DIGGS, SOLARZ AND WHALEN PAID A BRIEF , BUT PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO NIAMEY, APRIL 14-15. DURING THEIR TWENTY-SIX HOURS HERE, THE CODEL WAS ABLE TO MEET THE RESREPS OF MOST WESTERN DONORS, ATTEND A TWO-HOUR PARADE COMMEMORATING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, AND HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CHIEF OF STATE PRESIDENT SEYNI KOUNTCHE.

2. CODEL ARRIVED AT 1350 BY CHARTER PALNS FROM TIMBUKTU WHERE THEY HAD VISITED USAID PROJECTS AND PASSED THE NIGHT. DURING PRESS INTERVIEW AT THE AIRPORT. CONGRESSMAN
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 01696 161134Z

DIGGS EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO ASSESS THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BEFORE CONGRESS, WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERING PROPOSALS TO SPEND AS MUCH AS 1.5-2.0 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE SAHELIAN COUNTRIES OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS. FOLLOWING THE INTERVIEW, CODEL AND SUBCOMMITTEE CONSULTANTS HAD A WORKING LUNCHEON WITH THE COUNTRY TEAM.

3. THE CODEL'S FIRST VISIT OF THE AFTERNOON, ACCOMPAINED BY AMBASSADOR JAMES AND THE RDO WAS WITH BRAH MAMANE, SECRETARY FO STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT. BRAH TOLD CODEL THAT LONG-TERM GOAL OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN SAHEL SHOULD BE REGIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, IN SHORT TERM, NIGER AND OTHERS LOOKING FOR NATIONAL FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. HE THANKED THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR FOR ITS INTEREST IN RAISING FOOD PRODUCTION, BOTH RAINFED AND IRRIGATION. THIS NECESSARY TO MINIMIZE EFFECTS OF ANOTHER GREAT DROUGHT IN SAHEL, WHICH HE POINTED OUT HAD BEEN COSTLY FOR DONORS AS WELL.

4. BRAH JOINED THE GROUP FOR A MEETING WITH MAJ. BOULAMA-MANGA, MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CILSS COORDINATOR. BOULAMA AND SAID THAT AS COORDINATOR FOR CILSS HE WISHED TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF THE SAHELIAN STATES FOR THE POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE. IN HIS WORDS THE CONGRESSIONAL VISIT DEMONSTRATED QUOTE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO HELP AFRICAN PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY IN THE SAHEL, TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF DESERTIFICATION, FAMINE AND THRIST END QUOTE. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSIONS WHICH LASTED THREE-QUARTERS OF AN HOUR, BOULAMAREVIEWED GON PLANS FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND PARTICULARLY ASKED FOR U.S. HELP IN AGRICULTURAL

EDUCATION.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE MET WITH THE CODEL AT HIS RESIDENCE IN THE EARLY EVENING. MFA SECRETARY GENERAL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NIAMEY 01696 161134Z

DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFARIS ALSO SAT IN ON THE DISCUSSIONS. THESE WERE DOMINATED BY FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS--ZAIRE, NAAC OF WHICH NIGER IS MEMBER, AND NIGER'S ROLE AS MODERATOR IN REGIONAL DISPUTES (UPPER VOLTA-MALI, LIBYA-CHAD).

6. LATER IN THE EVENING AMBASSADOR JAMES GAVE A COCKTAIL-DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND IN HONOR OF VISITING REGIONAL UNDP DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA,HSIVYEL DOO KINGUE. IN ADDITION TO THE FULL UNDP GROUP, THE COCKTAIL WAS ATTENDED BY DJERMAKOYE, BRAH, AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM FED, RIVER NIGER COMMISSION, AND NIGER-NIGERIAN MIXED COMMISSION.

7 IN THE EARLY MORNING APRIL 15, DIGGS, SOLARZ AND WHALEN STTENDED COLORFUL ANNIVERSARY PARADE OF LABOR UNIONS, VETERANS, SAMARIA YOUTH GROUPS, ARMED FORCES, TRADITIONAL CHIEFS AND CAMELEERS.

8. PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE RECEIVED CODEL AT PRESIDENCY SHORTLY

AFTER THE PARADE, EXPRESSING THANKS AGAIN FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE DURING DROUGHT AND AFTER, WHILE OUTLINING BASIC AREAS-- WATER RESOURCES, LIVESTOCK AND TRANSPORTATION-- WHICH HE HOPED WOULD DOMINATE THINKING OF MULTI-LATERAL DONORS AND ANIMATE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. PRESIDENT ALSO TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING ZAIRE.

9. CODEL DEPARTED MID-AFTERNOON APRIL 15 FOR OUAGADOUGOU-- CONGRESSMAN DIGGS TO MEET A CONNECTING FLIGHT FOR PARIS, CONGRESSMEN SOLARZ AND WHALEN TO CONTINUE THEIR SAHEL VISIT.

10. COMMENT. AS INDICATED BY THEIR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CODEL DURING BUSY AND HECTIC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, GON REGARDED VISIT AS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR BUTTRESSING U.S. INTEREST IN THE SAHEL AND IN NIGER. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW AS THE FIRST CODEL SINCE KOUNTCHE'S ADVENT TO POWER THREE YEARS AGO, THE OCCASION WAS A SPRIGHTLY STEP AHEAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 NIAMEY 01696 161134Z

IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. END COMMENT.JAMES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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